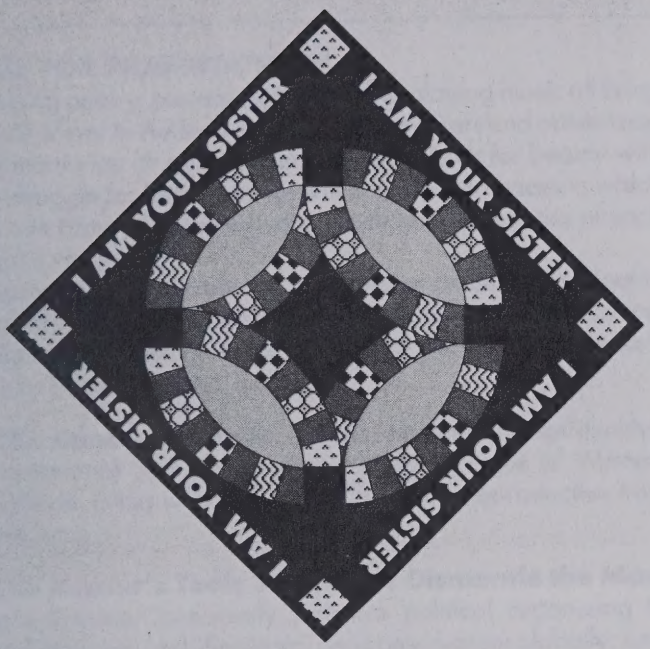


I AM YOUR SISTER:
FORGING GLOBAL CONNECTIONS ACROSS DIFFERENCES

a conference celebrating Audre Lorde and her work

OCTOBER 5 - 8, 1990
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

CONFERENCE

Three years ago a multi-racial group of Boston feminists came together with a vision for a gathering that would celebrate Audre Lorde and her work and, through it, celebrate ourselves, our dreams, our struggles, our angers, our visions, our futures. We wanted to pause and reflect upon the past decades and continue to chart a course for the one ahead in a space of our own making. It is in this spirit that we have organized a conference entitled, **I Am Your Sister: Forging Global Connections Across Differences**. We invite you to join us for this four day event.

WORKSESSIONS

Lorde's essay "Eye to Eye" is the bedrock of the conference. It takes "determination and practice" to face each other naked, without pretensions and learn how best to turn vulnerability into a true font of power. Throughout the entire 4 days, we will aim to keep ourselves open to confronting one another and ourselves in a way that can transform our interactions. In addition, we will use Lorde's 13 books of poetry and prose as jumping off points for deeper discussion. We are bringing together a wide range of people from different continents, including cultural workers, political activists, youth, anti-racist workers, impoverished women, profeminist men, educators and health workers to engage with these issues. We will share anti-racist organizing models within and among communities and learn from those engaged in struggles for justice globally. These include struggles in South Africa, the Caribbean, Palestine, Nicaragua, Roxbury MA, Keysville GA, Big Mountain, and for a nuclear-free Pacific. We will explore the links between struggles for national liberation and lesbian and gay liberation. We will learn from each other's strategies and challenge ourselves to create lasting, inclusive solidarity movements that will carry us through the next decade and beyond.

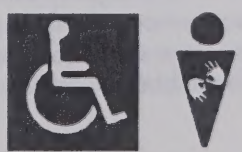
Worksessions will last at least 2 hours to allow time to explore issues in depth. Instead of panelists and workshop leaders, there will be facilitators and resource people within each worksession who will enable the flow of information and encourage the full participation of **all** attendees. Poetry readings and cultural presentations are central to all activities. Bring poetry to share during open readings throughout the weekend.

PARTICIPANTS

Around the world and across the U.S., Black communities, communities of color and impoverished people have been hit hard by racism and continual reductions in living wage jobs, and are confronting daily challenges to survival and community empowerment. These are the communities whose experiences will help shape future visions, so they will constitute at least 50% of conference participants. The remaining attendance will consist of people engaged in anti-racist work.

EVENTS

Readings • Films • Honoring Audre Lorde • Celebrating Women and Women's Communities • "Serious" international dinner • "Throw down party" • Children's workshops • Children's dance performance • Tribute to Pat Parker (Movement in Black) and Joseph Beam • Quilt exhibit of the memories stitched together by women from the Freedom Quilting Bee of Alberta, Alabama and the Zamani Soweto Sisters of South Africa.



CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

Reading poetry, presenting papers and playing music all bring equal power to Audre's work. Cultural workers and artists keep our memories alive; they combine the search for beauty with the struggle for justice, so we will provide the spaces in which we can draw wholeness and strength from the poetics of each other's visions.

Please submit proposals for worksession presentations (not to exceed 3 minutes) in any form – speech, music, poetry, dance, theatre, etc. – which embrace any of the themes of Lorde's work. Some examples include:

■ **The Cancer Journals** (Health, healing and spirituality): occupational and environmental illness, critique of Western medicine, living with cancer, HIV infection, reproductive freedom, etc.

■ **The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House** Consciously inclusive political organizing to combat racism, anti-Semitism, neo-conservatism globally; anti-colonial struggles for self-determination and sovereignty; struggles linking national liberation and lesbian/gay liberation.

■ **Poetry is not a Luxury** Poetry as a way of seeing, speaking and being and its use by ALL people to define their own reality; poetry workshops.

■ **Eye to Eye** Within self-defined communities we explore our own vulnerabilities, hatred and anger as a source of empowerment.

■ **The Erotic as Power** Recognizing and naming the erotic as a constant source of joy, liberation and strength, and as a well of excellence in our daily lives.

Facilitators, Speakers, and Cultural Workers

Ellen Kuzwayo • Barbara Smith • Brenda Joyner • Chandra Talpade Mohanty • Mab Segrest • Essex Hemphill • Janet Spotted Eagle • Eleanor Roffman • Rosario Morales • Rita Arditti • Dionne Brand • V. K. Aruna • Kate Rushin • Berta Perea •Huanani-Kay Trask • Ayofemi Folayan • Papusa Molina • Eva Johnson • Jewelle Gomez ...and growing

We invite everyone to bring your knowledge, visions and creative energies to these participatory worksessions.

SERVICES

Community housing will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The conference site is physically accessible. Accessible community housing will also be available. Sign language interpreters, taped readings of conference programs, personal care attendants can be arranged. If you have special needs or suggestions for ways to make the conference more accessible, please contact the office.
(617) 424 - 6791

LUNCHES

We strongly encourage you to order box lunches that will be served daily at the conference site. Orders must be placed with your application. You will not be able to order box lunches at the conference site.

DESIGN ARTISTS

An invitation to submit a design by September 1 for award to be presented to Audre Lorde. Artist chosen will be recognized at ceremony and receive honorarium.

AUDRE LORDE WRITING SABBATICAL

We have commissioned a quilt from The Freedom Quilting Bee – the only African American quilting collective in the United States – which will be raffled at the conference. The proceeds will be used to establish a fund to support a writing sabbatical for a community-based Black lesbian.

SCHOLARSHIPS

We hope to provide some help with travel expenses and free or reduced-price meals. Our funds are limited, so we encourage you to fundraise in your communities and/or find sponsoring organizations to support your attendence at the conference.

REGISTRATION

We have designed a wide ranging sliding scale and are depending on you to pay according to your resources. This fee covers participation in all events, *including the cultural event Friday night, the international dinner and celebration on Saturday night and the dance party on Sunday.* Other meals and accommodations are not included.

AIR TRAVEL AND HOTEL RESERVATION

Travel Vision International is arranging air travel and hotel accomodations at the lowest possible rate.

♥ By choosing *Travel Vision* you are helping to subsidize travel and participation for some conference attendees.

■ *Travel Vision* needs your reservation by **September 1, 1990.**

■ Your air travel and hotel reservation is to be mailed directly to *Travel Vision.*

CONFERENCE SITE

The conference will take place at 82 Tremont Street, Boston and is accessible by public transportation. The building is a smoke-free facility. Please refrain from wearing scented products at conference events because they cause some people to become ill. Upon confirmation, you will receive additional information about parking.

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What kind of mail will you receive?

Depending upon what interest area you selected, you will be hearing from any or all of the following:

- Women's literary and art journals
- Women's publishing houses
- Producers of women's music
- Announcements of spiritual retreats
- National women's studies programs
- Tours for women
- AND MUCH, MUCH MORE...

Look for the initials "NWML" on your mailing labels to know what is coming to you as a result of your participation in this network.

Mail will begin arriving within 6-8 weeks. Be sure to send in a change of address postcard when you move so we can keep you in the network.

Registration Cost: This is an unfunded grassroots project which depends upon donations from the women who participate in the network. A donation of $3.50 will pay for the costs associated with processing your registration form. If you cannot affort to donate, please fill out and return the registration form anyway. It is crucial that all women participate in a network that serves women's needs.

The Moral Majority can mail to over 5 million of their supporters. Feminists, too, must have this capability. Donations of $10-25 will help pay for the urgently needed publicity to enable the network to reach its target of 100,000 participants and continue growing to 1 million.

Mail this completed form (with your donation) to:

National Women's Mailing List
P.O. Box 68
Jenner, CA 95450
(707) 632-5763

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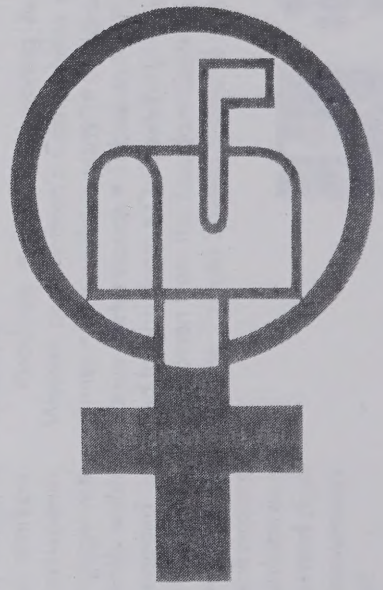
Can the women's movement reach you?



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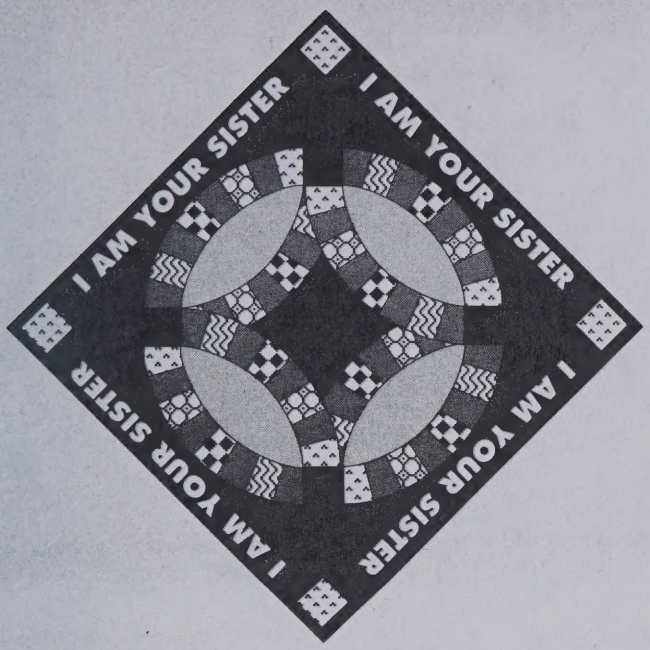

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